

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1. (Original) A plastics additives powder composition providing a combination of impact modifying and processing characteristics in thermoplastic resins, the composition comprising:
 - (a) from 50 to 98 parts by weight of impact modifier particles, the impact modifier particles having a mean particle size greater than 100 nm;
 - (b) from 0 to 48 parts by weight of first processing aid particles; and
 - (c) from 2 to 50 parts by weight of second processing aid particles, wherein the composition of the second processing aid particles is the same as, or different than, the composition of the first processing aid particles, wherein the total parts by weight of the impact modifier particles, the first processing aid particles, and the second processing aid particles is equal to 100.
2. (Original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from 82 to 93 parts by weight of impact modifier particles.
3. (Original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the impact modifier particles comprise:
from 80 to 96 parts by weight of at least one rubbery core polymer, and
from 4 to 20 parts by weight of at least one hard shell polymer.

4. (Original) A plastics additives powder composition providing a combination of impact modifying and processing characteristics in thermoplastic resins, the composition comprising:

(a) from 82 to 93 parts by weight of impact modifier particles, the impact modifier particles having a mean particle size greater than 100 nm, the impact modifier particles comprising from 89 to 94 parts by weight of at least one rubbery polymer, and 6 to 11 parts by weight of at least one hard polymer;

(b) from 5 to 10 parts by weight of first processing aid particles having a mean particle size greater than 100 nm, the first processing aid particles having a molecular weight greater than 1,000,000 g/mol; and

(c) from 2 to 8 parts by weight of second processing aid particles having a mean particle size greater than 100 nm, the second processing aid particles having a molecular weight greater than 1,000,000 g/mol,

wherein the composition of the second processing aid particles is the same as, or different than, the composition of the first processing aid particles, wherein the total parts by weight of the impact modifier particles, the first processing aid particles, and the second processing aid particles is equal to 100.

5. (Original) A method for preparing a plastics additives powder providing a combination of impact modifying and processing characteristics in thermoplastic resins, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a first aqueous particle dispersion comprising:

(i) from 50 to 98 parts by weight of impact modifier particles, the impact modifier particles having a mean particle size greater than 100 nm, and

- (ii) from 0 to 48 parts by weight of first processing aid particles;
- (b) coagulating the first aqueous particle dispersion to form a coagulated slurry;
- (c) adding a second aqueous particle dispersion to the coagulated slurry, the second aqueous particle dispersion comprising,
 - from 2 to 50 parts by weight of second processing aid particles, wherein the composition of the second processing aid particles is the same or different than the composition of the first processing aid particles, and wherein the total parts by weight of the impact modifier particles, the first processing aid particles, and the second processing aid particles is equal to 100; and
- (d) drying the coagulated slurry to less than 5 weight percent water to form a free-flowing powder.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the first aqueous dispersion comprises:

- from 80 to 95 parts by weight of impact modifier particles, and
- from 3 to 18 parts by weight of first processing aid particles.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the coagulated slurry in step (b) is formed at a temperature in the range of from 0°C to 45°C.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the coagulated slurry after step (c) has a mean slurry particle size in the range of from 150 to 400 microns and a particle size distribution span less than 3.0.

9. (Original) A thermoplastic resin blend, comprising:

- (A) a thermoplastic resin, and
- (B) a plastics additives powder composition providing a combination of impact modifying and processing characteristics in thermoplastic resins, comprising:
 - (a) from 50 to 98 parts by weight of impact modifier particles, the impact modifier particles having a mean particle size greater than 100 nm;
 - (b) from 0 to 48 parts by weight of first processing aid particles; and
 - (c) from 2 to 50 parts by weight of second processing aid particles, wherein the composition of the second processing aid particles is the same as, or different than, the composition of the first processing aid particles,

and wherein the total parts by weight of the impact modifier particles, the first processing aid particles, and the second processing aid particles is equal to 100;

wherein the weight ratio of (A):(B) is in the range of from 1:99 to 99:1.

10. (Original) A method for modifying a thermoplastic resin, comprising:

- (I) melt blending:
 - (A) a thermoplastic resin; and
 - (B) a plastics additives powder composition providing a combination of impact modifying and processing characteristics in thermoplastic resins, the composition comprising:
 - (a) from 50 to 98 parts by weight of impact modifier particles, the impact modifier particles having a mean particle size greater than 100 nm;

(b) from 0 to 48 parts by weight of first processing aid particles; and

(c) from 2 to 50 parts by weight of second processing aid particles, wherein the composition of the second processing aid particles is the same as, or different than, the composition of the first processing aid particles, and wherein the total parts by weight of the impact modifier particles, the first processing aid particles, and the second processing aid particles is equal to 100; wherein the weight ratio of (A):(B) is in the range of from 1:99 to 99:1.

11. (New) An acrylic-based impact modifier composition for poly(vinyl chloride) comprising:

- a) at least 92 weight percent of a rubber compound having a glass transition temperature of less than 25°C, wherein at least 95 weight percent of the rubber compound is selected from the group consisting of:
 - 1) a C₁ to C₁₂ alkyl acrylate or a C₁ to C₁₂ alkyl methacrylate homopolymer, and
 - 2) a copolymer of butyl acrylate and ethyl acrylate or 2-ethylhexyl acrylate; and
- b) a shell, wherein the shell is disposed externally to the rubber compound, and wherein the shell is at least partially grafted to the rubber compound,

wherein the impact modifier has a mean particle size of greater than about 100 nanometers.

12. (New) The impact modifier composition recited in claim 11, further comprising from 0.1 to 5 weight percent of a cross-linker compound.

13. (New) The impact modifier composition recited in claim 11, wherein the rubber compound comprises a butyl acrylate homopolymer, and wherein the shell comprises methyl methacrylate.